

could not be entrusted with handling of foreign exchange the sale of such passes has been centralised in the Railway Tourist Guide Office, Baroda House. Similar arrangements are also existing at Bombay and Calcutta.

Arrears of Sugarcane dues

*40. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge arrears of sugarcane dues are outstanding with the sugar mills; and

(b) if so, what is the amount outstanding with the private mills, State-run mills, Central Government run-mills and co-operative mills respectively (State-wise and mill-wise) and what action Government are going to take against the management of those mills who have failed to pay the arrears of the cane growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) As on 30-9-1983, out of a total cane price of about Rs. 1520,00 crores payable for the 1982-83 season, about Rs. 126.18 crores remain unpaid. The dues constitute about 8.3 per cent of the total.

(b) The State-wise and mill-wise arrears and the State-wise and sector-wise aggregates of arrears are respectively given in Statements I and II which are placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix CXXVIII, Annexure No. 7]

Ensuring payment of cane price is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, who have the necessary statutory powers and field organisations for the purpose of enforcement. The Central Government have, however, taken steps like providing better credit facilities, augmentation of the sugar buffer stock and granting excise rebate to improve the liquidity of the industry to pay the

cane price. Besides, Uttar Pradesh Government has been advanced a ways and means loan of Rs. 40 crores in the context of large cane price arrears. In addition, the prices of free-sale sugar are regulated through monthly releases to keep a balance between the price to the consumer and the liquidity price of the industry. The Central Government has also impressed upon the States to have the arrears cleared expeditiously.

Ramnagar-Moradabad railway line

165. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 159 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1983 and state the progress made so far with regard to the conversion of Moradabad Ramnagar railway line from metre gauge into broad gauge and what is the amount spent thereon during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): The work of conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar is being progressed well within the available resources. An amount of Rs. 96.5 lakhs has already been spent on it up to 31-3-1983 and an outlay for Rs. 1 crore has been provided for 1983-84. However, it is proposed to further increase the allocation for this project during the current year.

Eastern Railway Service Commission

166. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to shift the Eastern Railway Service Commission from Patna to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, by when and what are the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.